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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01 /070 W
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R 121430Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5081
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MASASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS/ PFOR JO XF
SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE WEEKLY.

1. SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE WEEKLY MAGAZINE AL-HAWADITH PUBLISHED JULY 10 AND PUBLICIZED IN A DIFFERENT VERSION IN JORDAN PRESS AND RADIOI(FBIS JN102130) KING JUSSEIN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) JORDAN IS MODERNIZING ITS MILITARY TACTICS AND EQUIPMENT SINCE IN EVENT OF ISRAELI ATTACK TOWARD SYRIA OR SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN WOULD INEVITABLY BECOME INVOLVED. B) JORDAN CONCENTRATING ON IMPORIVING COORDINATION WITH SYRIA. C) SOVIETS ARE PLAYING NO ROLE IN EQUIPPING JORDAN ARMY, NOR HAS JORDAN SOUGHT SOVIET AID. D) JORDAN HAS RESISTED SOVIET PRESSURE TO TO GENEVA, SINCE WEST BANK IS NOT HIGH ON LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR SETTLEMENT. E) IN ANY PACE SETTLEMENT EAST JERUSALEM MUST RETURN TO ARAB RULE. F) JORDAN CONTINUES TO SUPPOR RABAT SUMMIT DECISIONS. WHILE PLO OPERATIONS
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WITHIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ADVANCE ARAB CAUSE, FEDAYEEN

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SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO USE JORDAN AS BASE AND THUS GIVE
ISRAELIS CAUSE FOR BATTLE. G. US IS MOVING QUICKLY IN
ATTEMPT TO SETTLE MIDEAST PROBLEM. H) JORDAN FORCES
IN OMAN ARE THRE TO HELP STOP INTERVENTION AND PRESSURE
FROM OUTSIDE. VERSION OF INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN JORDAN
DID NOT INCLUDE KING'S REMARKS REPORTED IN AL-HAWADITH
THAT RIGHTS OF (PRESUMABLY INDIVIDUAL) PALESTINIANS
EXTEND BEYOND TERRITORIES OCCUPED IN 1967 TO TERRORITIES
OCCUPIED IN 1948. EMBASSY VIEW HOWEVER IS THAT INTER
VIEW REPRESENTS TRADITIONAL STANCE BY KING RATHER THAN
MORE BELLIGERENT ATTITUDE REFLECTED IN SOME INTERNATIONAL
PRESS INTERPRETATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. JORDANIAN MILITARY POSTURE VISA-A-VIS ISRAEL. JORDAN
IS MODERNIZING HER ARMED FORCES AND IS ADOPTING TACTICS AIM
ING AT GREATER FLEXIBILITY SINCE JORDAN WOULD NECESSARILY
BE INVOLVED SHOULD ISRAEL "ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE TERRITORIAL
SITUATION. KING ENVISIONED FOUR POSSIBLE" FUTURE CRISIS
SITIATION" WHICH WOULD INVOLVE JORDAN IN JOSTILITIES WITH
ISRAEL: 1) ISRAELI FRONTAL ASSAULT "TO STRIKE AT THE RABA
HOMELAND". 2) ISARELI STRIKE ON SYRIA WHICH WOULD MOST
PROBABLY" INVOLVE FLANKING ATTACK, POSSIBLY THROUGH
JORDANIAN TERRITORY" 3) ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO THREATEN
ISALMIC SHRINES IN MECCA OR MEDINA" IN ODER TO BARGAIN
OVER JERUSALEM" 4) "AN OPERATION AIMED AT DETERRING
THE ARABS USE OF THE OIL WEAPON. AGAIN JORDAN IS THE
ROAD TO SUCH A POSSIBILITY" SINCE "CALLAPSE OF JORDAN
WOULD EXPOSE ALL THE OIL FIELDS". THUS COORDINATION
BETWEEN JORDAN AND ARAB BROTHERS IN GENERAL, AND WITH
SYRIA IN PARTICULAR"ON WHICH WE ARE CONCENTRATING"
BECOMES SIE QUO NON. WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY COORDIN
ATION WITY SYRIA."THE FIELD IS BOTH WIDE AND OPEN".

3. SOVIET ROLE: JAF MODERIZATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT
WITHOUT SOVIET ARMS AID: "WE HAVE NEITHER ASKED FOR ARMS
AID, NOR HAS IT BEEN OFFERED US" SOVIETS HAD EARLIER
PRESSURED JORDAN TO GO TO GENEVA, BUT THEY WERE INFORMED
THAT JORDAN TOOK RABAT DECISIONS SERIOUSLY AND THAT DIS
CUSSION OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL"WILL COME
AT A LATER STAGE" IN ANY CASE THERE ARE CERTAIN
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PRIORITIES WHICH WOULD PRECEDE GENEVA: FIRST THE EGYPTIAN
FRONT THEN THE SYRIAN FRONT AND LATER THE WEST BANK.

4. JERUSALEM: HUSSEIN DENIEDPRESS AGENCY REPORTS WHICH
STATED THAT WHILE IN SOUTH CAROLINA, HE ADVOCATED INTER
NATIONALIZATION OF HERUSAELM AS SOLUTION. ON CONTRARY
"IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A SOLUTION WITHOUT THE
RETURN OF ARAB JERUSALEM."

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5. PLO. JORDAN CONTINES TO SUPPORT RABAT SUMMIT DECISION
WHICH GAVE PLO RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGAINING WEST BANK,
ALTHOUGH BEOFER RABAT JORDAN HAD ADVOCATED INTERNATIONALLY
SUPERVISED PLEBISCITE FOR AREA. IN DISCUSSION"POINTS OF
DISPUTE" BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO, HUSSEIN ELABORATED ON
"OVE OF REVOLUTIONARY ACTION" "WE BELIEVE THAT THE
REVOLUTION SHOULD BE INSIDE THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IF
THEY (THE FEDEYEEN) ENTER AND CARRY OUT OPERATIONS AND THEN
LEAVE, THEY WOULD BE CREASING RISKS... THE MOST IMPORTANT
OF WHICH WOUL BE TO GIVE ISRAEL OPPORTUNITIES TO CHOSE THE
TIME AND PLACE FOR THE BATTLE. BUT IF THE FEDEYEEN
WANT TO ENTER AND REMAIN THERE SO THAT THE REVOLUTION CAN
BEGIN FROM WITHIN, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT NO ONE CAN
REFUSE". THE KING ALSO DISCUSSED EVENTS OF 1970"FOR
WHICH WE WERE ALL TO BLAME, BOTH JORDANIANS
AND PALESTINIANS".

6. US ROLE IN MIDEAST SETTLEMENT: KING IS CONVINCED
THAT US IS MOVING QUICKLY IN ATTEMPT TO SETTLE MIDEASST
SINCE ALL PARTIES REALIZE THAT TIME IS WORKING AGAINST
CHANCES FOR PEACE. JORDAN'S AIM IS TO CONVINCE US
SHOULD WAR BREAK OUT NOT TO HELP ISRAEL AS IT DID IN
1973"I BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE BECOME AGREEABLE
TO THIS.

7. OMAN: SINCE IRANIAN TROOPS ARE PREPARING TO WITHDRAW
JORDANIANS MUST REMAIN INOMAN TO HELP STOP INTERVENTION AND
PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE."I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A
REVOLUTION IN OMAN, THE REVOLUTION IS IMPORTED".

8. COMMENT: VERSION OF INTERVIEW PUBLISHED LOCALLY DOES NOT
CARRY FOLLOWING STATEMENT WICH APPEARS IN ORIGINAL AL-HAWADITH
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INTERVIEW" IN THE PAST WE USED TO CALL FOR THE RESTORATION
OF THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK AND JERUSALEM BECAUSE JORDAN WAS
INTERESTED IN RESOLUTION 242, BUT THE SITUATION IS NOW
DIFFERENT, SINCE THE LAWFUL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS
EXCEED THE BOUNDRIES OF THE WEST BANK AND EXTEND TO THE
LAND OCCUPIED IN 1948". AMMAN NEWS BROADCASTS HOWEVER
REFER TO STATEMENT WITHOUT QUOTING IT. ASSUMING THAT ABOVE
REMAKRS WERE QUOTED CORRECTLY ON BASIS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF
KING HUSSEINS CURRENT VIEWS WE CERTAINLY DO NOT BELIEVE
KING INTENDED IN ANY WAY TO REPUDIATE FIRM AND CONTINUING
GOJ ADHERENCE IN RESOLUTION 242. WE WILL HOWEVER SEEK
SOME CLARIFICATION FROM GOJ ON THIS.

9. WE FING REMARK IN JUAN DE ONIS NY TIMES ARTICLE
(JULY 11 WIRELESS FILE)THAT "KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN SAID

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TODAY THAT HE WAS BUYING SOPHISTICATED AMERICAN WEAPONS...
TO DEFEND SYRIA AGAINST ANY FLANKING ATTACK BY ISRAEL".."
TO MISREPRESENT KINGS INTENT WHICH APPEARED TO BE MAINLY
CONCERN FOR PREVENTING VIOLATION OF JORDANIAN
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY BY ISRAEL. MOREOVER UNLIKE DE ONIS
WE DO NOT SEE THATHUSSEIN "HINTED THAT HE MIGHT ALLOW
PALESTINIAN GUERILLAS TO PASS THROUGH JORDAN TO THE
WEST BANK/.." KING'S REMAKRS SEEMED MORE TO RECOGNIZE
FAIT ACCOMPLI OF FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK, WHILE
AT SAME TIME STRESSING JORDANIAN DETERMINATION TO
AVOID PROVOKING ISRAEL.

10. NEVERTHELESS KING'S REMAKRS SEEM INTENDED TO STRESS
ARAB UNITY AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE ISRAELI ATTACK AND TO
INDICATE THAT JORDAN WILL INEVITABLY BE CAUGHT UP IN AND
THEREFORE PLAY A ROLE IN RESISTING ANY ISRAELI MILITARY MOVES
AGAINST SYRIA MR JORDAN'S FINANCIAL BENEFACTORS
SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF ARABS.
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